



Cook County & Illinois
JURY VERDICT REPORTER

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(AAA 27/1) MEDICAL MALPRACTICE--PRE-COLONOSCOPY LAXATIVE CAUSED RENAL FAILURE
(12D)

Martha Minnifield v Dr. Doris Lurwick, D.O. 04L-14122 Tried Feb. 23-27, 2009

Verdict: \$3,402,870
Judge: Irwin J. Solganick (IL Cook-Law)
Pltf Atty(s): Edward W. McNabola and Theodore C. Jennings of Cogan & McNabola DEMAND: \$2,000,000
policy ASKED: \$3,502,870
Deft Atty(s): Michael R. Slovis of Cunningham, Meyer & Vedrine (ISMIE) OFFER: none
Pltf Expert(s): Dr. David T. Rubin of University of Chicago Hospital, 5841 S. Maryland Ave., MC 4076, Chicago,
IL (773-702-6140) (Gastroenterologist) and Dr. Arnold Berns (Nephrologist)
Deft Expert(s): Dr. Eli Ehrenpreis of Highland Park Hospital, 757 Park Ave. West, #2850, Highland Park, IL
(847-657-1900) (Gastroenterologist)

April 11, 2003, deft gastroenterologist Doris Lurwick performed a pre-colonoscopy screening on pltf patient F-56 and gave her written instructions to ingest a three-ounce bottle of Fleet Phospho-Soda Buffered Saline Laxative prior to the colonoscopy scheduled for April 15. This over-the-counter oral laxative was widely known to pose a risk of kidney damage in patients with kidney disease, and pltf's blood work in March had revealed that she suffered from chronic kidney disease. Pltf contended Dr. Lurwick should have prescribed instead a safe alternative drug called GoLytely which poses no risk to the kidneys. As a result of ingesting the Fleet Phospho-Soda, pltf suffered renal failure and required dialysis for 2.5 years (\$574,000 medical bills, no LT). The jury deliberated less than 2 hours.